United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General receives report by Special Envoy Vladimir Petrovsky on his recent mission to Tripoli; Libya declares its acceptance of resolution 731 (1992) and invites United Nations committee to inspect its territory at any time; says its health sector has been "most seriously affected " by aerial embargo.

+ Security Council demands end to fighting and interference in Bosnia-Herzegovina; asks Secretary-General to keep under review possibility of deploying United Nations peace-keeping mission in that region.

+ Security Council recommends to General Assembly admission of Croatia and Slovenia to United Nations membership.

+ State of Cambodia releases 108 prisoners in response to United Nations appeal for humanitarian amnesty for detainees, according to spokesman for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

+ Two scientists - Professor Qu Geping, of China, and Professor Yuri Izrael, of the Russian Federation -- awarded the 1992 United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Environment Prize.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General had received a report from Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, his Special Envoy to Libya, on his recent mission to that country. According to the spokesman, the Secretary-General was now continuing his consultations with interested parties in accordance with the mandate given to him by the Security Council.

The Secretary-General asked Mr. Petrovsky on 7 May to travel to Tripoli in the framework of resolution 731 (1992) and 748 (1992). The Security Council had requested under resolution 731 (1992) of 20 January that Libya cooperate in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. On 31 March, the Council set a 15 April deadline for

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Libya to comply with its request and spelled out the sanctions against it in case of non-compliance. The sanctions -- currently in effect -- include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular post abroad.

During his visit to Tripoli on 12 May, Under-Secretary-General Petrovsky delivered to Colonel Qaddafi a letter from the Secretary-General "regarding the need for full and effective implementation without delay of resolution 731 in all its aspects". Mr. Petrovsky brought back a letter from the Secretary of the People's Committee of External Liaison and International Cooperation of Libya addressed to the Secretary-General.

In that letter, dated 14 May, Libya declares that there are "no terrorist training camps or terrorist groups or organizations in its territory" and invites "a committee from the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat or any appropriate United Nations body to investigate this at any time". The letter states further that Libya will not "in any way permit its territory, its citizens or its institutions to be used directly or indirectly for the perpetration of terrorist acts". It says Libya accepts resolution 731 and is ready to "implement its provisions relating to definitive renunciation of terrorism in all its forms and of whatever origin".

The letter further states that Libya undertakes "to deport from its territory any person who has proved to be involved in terrorist acts" and that "the competent authorities in Libya have not rejected the principle of surrendering the two individuals under suspicion".

According to a second letter to the Secretary-General, dated 13 May, the Libyan health sector had been "most seriously affected " by the aerial embargo imposed by resolution 748. The departure of many nurses, physicians and technicians had left great confusion in the field of medical care, the letter said. With regard to medical supplies, many medicines needed to be transported speedily from processing and preparation sites to storage sites. Lack of transportation had led to disruption of treatment, prevention, inoculation and diagnosis programmes, such as the child inoculation programme, the letter said.

Both letters were signed by the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Ali Ahmed Elhouderi.
(S/23918 - S/23915)

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The Security Council has demanded an immediate end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the immediate cessation of all outside interference, including by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and elements of the Croatian army. It has also asked the Secretary-General to keep under review the possibility of deploying a United Nations peace-keeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council took that action by its unanimous adoption of resolution 752 (1992) at a formal meeting on Friday evening, 15 May.

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Expressing deep concern about the "rapid and violent deterioration of the situation" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Council demanded that those units of the JNA and elements of the Croatian army there now must either be withdrawn, become subject to the authority of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or be disbanded and disarmed. In the latter case, their weapons would be placed under effective international monitoring. In that connection, the Council asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to consider what assistance the United Nations could provide. It further demanded that "all irregular forces" in Bosnia-Herzegovina be disbanded and disarmed.

The Council also demanded that all parties and others concerned cooperate fully with the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) and the European Community Monitoring Mission, and respect fully their freedom of movement and the safety of their personnel.

Also by the resolution, the Council emphasized the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and called on all concerned to ensure that conditions are established for the unhindered delivery of such assistance. It asked the Secretary-General to keep under active review the feasibility of protecting the international humanitarian relief programmes which could be monitored by United Nations military observers.
(SC/5407)

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The Security Council has recommended to the General Assembly that the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia be admitted to United Nations membership.

The Council's action came during two consecutive meetings this morning, when members adopted, without a vote, resolutions 753 and 754 (1992). After the adoption of the resolutions, the Council President, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), on behalf of the Council, read out statements in which he extended congratulations to the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

If the two Republics are admitted, the total membership of the United Nations will reach 177.

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One hundred and eight prisoners were released by Cambodia on Friday, 15 May, according to a press communiqué today from the Spokesman of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The release was in response to an appeal for a humanitarian amnesty for detainees made by UNTAC at a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on 7 May.

At the meeting, UNTAC put forth that there were a number of persons detained in Cambodia, in various locations, who are not prisoners of war or civilian detainees, as defined in the Paris Accord, signed last October. UNTAC proposed that the Council consider granting amnesty for some of these detainees, with priority given to the sick, elderly and minors; those detained for lengthy periods of time without having appeared or been sentenced before a

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court; and petty offenders and others who were not considered to be a serious threat to society.

According to the Cambodia Ministry of National Security, the prisoners were released from two locations. On one occasion, the release was witnessed by UNTAC officials.
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Two scientists -- Professor Qu Geping, of China, and Professor Yuri Izrael, of the Russian Federation -- have shared the 1992 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sasakawa Environment Prize.

The Prize, worth $200,000, is acknowledged as the sole United Nations Award given annually to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to the environment.

The two winners of the 1992 Prize were announced by Dr. Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's Executive Director. The presentation will be made during World Environment Day celebrations this year on 6 June, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

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